Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129111
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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129111

EXDIS - FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK, US

SUBJ: BRIEFING GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ON PRESS STORIES REGARDING A-7 AIRCRAFT AND NUCLEAR PROCESSING IN PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 127472

1. IN LIGHT OF U.S. NEWS SERVICE STORIES AND PRESS COVERAGE JUNE 2 AND 3 REGARDING PROPOSED SALE OF A-7 AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN, YOU SHOULD SUPPLEMENT YOUR BRIEFING FOR THE SHAH (REFTEL) WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. U.S. NEWS SERVICES HAVE CARRIED STORIES TO EFFECT THAT USG HAS TURNED DOWN PAKISTAN'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE A-7S FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING UNCERTAINTY OVER BHUTTO TENURE AND DESIRE NOT TO UPSET INDIA AS WELL AS INCONSISTENCY WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.
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PAGE 02 STATE 129111

A-7 QUESTION DID NOT COME UP DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED IN PARIS. BECAUSE OF THE VERY RECENT NEWS STORIES, PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INDEED DECIDED AGAINST THE SALE OF A-7S TO PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR GLOBAL ARMS POLICY,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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ONE PROVISION OF WHICH IS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE A NEW ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO A REGION. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT BILATERAL FACTORS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN, SUCH AS ALLEGED IN THE RECENT NEWS STORIES HERE, DID NOT ENTER INTO OUR DECISION; THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED TO THAT EFFECT. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE WANT THE SHAH TO KNOW THAT THE USG CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE PAKISTAN'S LEGITIMATE NEED FOR CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING MORE MODERN AIRCRAFT, AND THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE SALE OF A COMBAT AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN THE A-7 IF PAKISTAN DESIRES.

3. YOU SHOULD TAKE OCCASION TO NOTE, IN ADDITION, A STORY CARRIED BY A U.S. NEWSPAPER DURING THE RECENT CIEC MEETING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD INFORMED SECRETARY VANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAD DECIDED TO DELAY THE TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY TO PAKISTAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE FRENCH-PAKISTANI CONTRACT FOR A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT NO SUCH COMMUNICATION WAS MADE TO US BY THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT U.S. OFFICIAL SOURCES PROMPTLY DENIED THE NEWS STORY IN QUESTION BOTH IN PARIS AND IN WASHINGTON.

4. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE WISHED THE SHAH TO HAVE OUR ACCOUNT OF THE TRUE BACKGROUND REGARDING THESE RECENT NEWS STORIES, WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE MOST UNFORTUNATE AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT WHEN WE ARE EXERTING OUR BEST EFFORTS TO PUT OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN BACK ON THE TRACK. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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